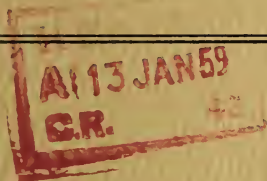


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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CLUTTON



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1957.

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The Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1957

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

The Report is compiled on the lines requested by the Minister in Circular 1/58 of 13th January, 1958.

Appended to this Report is the Report of the work carried out in the Public Health Department as requested and submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health.

I propose to amplify and comment upon where necessary such items as would appear to me to need such treatment.

SECTION A

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

R. V. Brew, M.B., B.S., Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).

F. C. Powell, Public Health Inspector (Full Time)

W. Kerley, Additional Public Health Inspector (Full Time)

S. D. Crowle, Additional Public Health Inspector (Full Time)

The Committees concerned with matters of Public Health are:

Public Health Committee.

Housing Committee.

House Letting Committee.

Water Augmentation Committee.

SECTION B

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunization in Clutton Rural District

The number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunization in—

6 months ending June, 1957	...	...	129
6 months ending December, 1957	...	...	75
Total			204

Of these 144 were under 1 year of age.

42 were under 2 years of age.

If approximately 500 children were born in those two years, and Immunization can take place at anything over 6 months, it would appear that there are still far too many babies not receiving this vital treatment.

During this same period 137 children between the age of 5 and 10 years received a Reinforcing Injection at school.

Vaccination (against Small Pox) during the year 1957

Children	under 1 year	...	55
	over 1 year	... ..	3
	over 2 to 5 years	...	6
	5 to 14 years	... ..	1 & 2 revaccinated.
	15 and over	... ..	4 & 5 revaccinated.
Total Vaccinations:	Primary	...	69
	Revaccinations		7

A number of Adults are revaccinated every year before proceeding abroad in order to carry with them an International Vaccination Certificate. Many countries will not admit persons not having such evidence of recent vaccination. All such International Vaccination Certificates have to be rubber stamped by me as your Medical Officer of Health. The actual operation is carried out by the General Practitioners under the Health Scheme. These figures are not included above.

Vaccination (against Poliomyelitis)

This national effort got off to a very slow start and during the year 1957 Clutton Rural District was one of the 5 Rural Districts of Somerset which got no supplies of the Vaccine available.

It is intended that selected children will be able to be vaccinated by their own family Doctor or by a Medical Officer of the Somerset County Council, whichever the parents choose.

Parents must make application to Taunton to the County Medical Officer of Health for their children to be included in the list of those wishing to be vaccinated when possible.

There has apparently been a great shortage of the Vaccine itself.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases:—

<u>Disease</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	... ..	96	84	180
Whooping Cough	... ..	23	21	44
Tuberculosis of Lungs	... ..	6	1	7
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)		1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	—	11	11
Pneumonic Lobar	... ..	5	4	9
Pneumonic Influenzal	... ..	2	2	4
Poliomyelitis	... ..	3	1	4
Scarlet Fever	... ..	4	3	7
Erysipelas	... ..	—	1	1
Total		140	128	268

Measles and Whooping Cough account for 224 of the total of all notifications.

Note the small number of Notifications of Tuberculosis compared to years ago.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

The figures are apparently high but this is due to the new regulations governing the rules of notification. A woman with a cold can have a temperature during her Puerperion which necessitates a notification, which leads one to think that all is not well with her confinement.

Poliomyelitis

The 4 cases notified occurred at Clutton—2 in August, 1 in September and 1 in October.

No evidence of direct contact with the disease could be traced in the first case though it was thought to be contracted at the seaside.

3 cases were children of 4, 5 and 13 years and one male of 35 years. Because of the whole-hearted co-operation of Parents

and Adult school authorities, and the very efficient visiting and tracing of contacts by your Public Health Inspectors, the outbreak mercifully did not spread.

Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year—a tribute to the Immunization programme.

SECTION C

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART III

CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Is controlled by the County Council, the work is done through the patient's own Doctor and the District Nurse. Ante-natal work is carried out by them or at ante-natal clinics generally situated in the local available hospitals. Patients are encouraged to report to one or both in the early months, in order that these preliminary examinations can be executed and conducted at regular intervals.

Patients can have their babies either at home or in a hospital, in the former case being attended by their own nurse and doctor.

They remain under their care for six weeks, or more if needed.

In many areas there are Welfare Clinics to continue the health supervision of the child until it is five years of age and starts school. In addition, the mother and child are visited at intervals by their District Nurse who can summon the Doctor when needed.

The scheme works extremely well and there has been no need for modifications since its inception in 1948.

HEALTH VISITING is in the hands of the County Council and is done by Nurses on the County Staff. They appear to visit all cases of Tuberculosis and cases of bad housing conditions with or without over crowding. The result is frequently a letter to your M.O.H. demanding a Council House for the householder.

HOME NURSING SERVICE—conducted by the District Nurses. No special staff in this area.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION are carried out by the General Practitioners under a scheme supervised by the County Council. Children up to 5 years of age can be Immunized against Diphtheria by their own Doctor. This involves 2 injections at intervals of 4 weeks of A.P.T. supplied by the County Authority. From 5 to 14 years whilst the child is at school a further bolstering dose is given by the County School Medical Officer when visiting the School.

This service has almost eliminated Diphtheria from the List of Infectious Diseases. I cannot remember when I last saw a case and the figures for the whole Country are a magnificent testimony to the efficiency of "Preventive Medicine".

VACCINATION is available to all persons of all ages by their own Doctor under a County Council Scheme. Payment for both services to the Doctor is by the Somerset County Council.

I regret to say that in my experience Vaccination is not used as thoroughly as it should be.

AMBULANCE SERVICE including the provision of free transport for those unable to travel by public transport. The service is excellent and a great boon to the sick and injured. The Staffs are unfailingly prompt and helpful and a special word of thanks is due to them for the excellent work they do and the way they do it.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE. In this District it is run by the W.V.S. It is of great assistance to the sick and aged sick. Unfortunately the supply of Helps is not large; I wish it could be augmented, for the work they do is badly needed and greatly appreciated.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED SICK. I am still not happy about the above subject. No advance seems to have been made in this direction at all. In fact the position appears to remain "in statu quo", in other words—very bad.

It is still quite impossible to obtain immediate admission to any of the Hospitals in our North/East Somerset Group for old people who are ill and who have no-one to nurse or care for them.

Can you imagine the plight of a Doctor or a District Nurse who finds an old person living alone in urgent need of hospital care and attention—No neighbour can be found who is willing to take on the job, and there are no relatives available—on

telephoning the North East Somerset Hospital Group one is told there are no beds available, but the patients name will be put on the waiting list. The Bed Bureau of Bristol Hospitals Group, whose prime function is the admissions of acute and emergency cases, requiring Specialist treatment at once, are unable to help.

What would you do? I suspect you would do what I do—the best you can under impossible conditions; until the patient dies long before any bed is offered for their occupation. This is a true story which has happened to me personally on far too many occasions. I like the old people and I think they are having a raw deal, and apparently nobody cares!!!

SECTION D

WATER SUPPLY

In normal seasons the supply is now abundant and the quality good after Chlorination. Samples of raw water vary considerably in purity from time to time, but the universal chlorination of all Public Supplies ensures a good sample in the taps.

During 1957 we were caught short during a period of drought but emergency supplies from the Bristol Waterworks Company put us right. Two large extensions are in view:-

- (a) The augmentation of the Eastern Area Supply from the Bath Main.
- (b) The Mendip Hills Distribution Scheme.

Both are urgently needed.

SEWERAGE. Details of the various schemes in operation in part or whole in the District are contained in the Report of the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Two large schemes are in process of preparation. Both are of the utmost urgency. I refer to Paulton where the existing arrangements are archaic and a public menace. In Bishop Sutton there is an equally urgent need for a comprehensive scheme to improve the conditions in the village itself, and also to reduce the pollution of the Chew Valley Lake, which is in effect Bristol's drinking water.

In conjunction with the Bishop Sutton scheme there is another to deal with Chew Magna where at present a large percentage of the sewage runs into the River Chew and its tributaries.

SECTION E

HOUSING

A great mass of details of work done under this heading by your Staff is contained in the Report of your Inspector. A careful study of this should bring to light the great volume of work handled by them in this one field only of their daily work.

Some progress has been made in implementing Clearance Orders, but it is a slow business whilst there is still a large waiting list for houses.

I am glad to see the start of a nice lot of new houses at Stanton Drew all of which are badly needed. I hope next year to be able to report a similar condition at Paulton.

Many of the villages in the Western Section of your District would appear to be nearly but not quite adequately supplied with new Council Houses. In some I know of, a further 2-3 or 4 would absorb all the outstanding claims, but the fact remains that there are still just a few really tragic cases of young couples without a house of their own, and in one or two cases couples having to live apart until something can be done for them.

In the Eastern side there are still a large number of houses needed—the total number of applications for new houses in the District being placed at approximately 700.

The House Letting Committee continues to do a good job at considerable cost to themselves of both time and patience.

The District Councillor in whose parish there are houses to be let is a busy and harassed man, and your M.O.H. gets the backwash from him. For some reason unknown the Public think that I have the last word in the allocations.

SECTION F

FOOD POISONING

No cases were notified during the year.

SECTION G

MILK

My report of last year on this subject still holds good. This is a Milk Producing Area, and very large quantities of high quality milk go daily to the towns via the Dairies. We are told that there is still too much of it and it is difficult to dispose of it in times of glut.

Within the next twelve months North East Somerset will have been the subject of a T.B. eradication sweep by the Ministry of Veterinary Officers. All reactor cows will be removed from the Dairy Herds and slaughtered. In the end Somerset will be a County of 100 per cent. T.T. Attested Cattle.

I wonder how much effect it will have on the incidence of Tuberculosis in humans!!!

SECTION H

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The position remains the same as in 1956.

There are no new ones and the proprietors of the existing ones have fallen in with the suggestions of your Inspectors as to times of slaughter with some easing of the burden of late hours and weekend work.

Even so the Meat Inspectors have a very hard job to do from which there is no let-up at any time.

They have actually designed a wonderful service with virtually 100 per cent. examination of all carcasses killed in their area. I doubt if much bad meat escapes their eagle eyes.

You will see from the Inspector's Report that 24, 121 carcasses were inspected out of a total of 24,577 carcasses killed which gives only 456 not examined of which 258 were sheep and lambs.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres: 42,645

Registrar General's estimate of resident population 17,360

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books 5597

Rateable Value and sum represented by a Penny Rate £146,506
and £581 respectively.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

FOR THE YEAR

Estimated Population (Mid-year):- 17,360

Comparability Factors Births: 1.04

Deaths: 0.93

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	133	113	246
Illegitimate	4	7	11
Total	<u>137</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>257</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 population: 14.80
(last year) 14.76

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Total	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>

Rate of still births per 1,000 live births: 23.34
(last year) 39.84

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

Of these a total of 4 were under 4 weeks of age.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

Deaths of infants under
1 year of age per 1,000 live births 27.23

Deaths from all causes:

Total Notifications (after correction for Inward
and Outward transfers) 177

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm Lung or Bronchus	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm Breast ...	—	3	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	7	9	16
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	14	31
Coronary Disease, angina ...	21	9	30
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	1	2
Other heart diseases ...	7	19	26
Other circulatory disease ...	5	1	6
Influenza ...	3	1	4
Pneumonia ...	4	3	7
Bronchitis ...	2	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	10	1	11
Congenital malformations ...	4	1	5
Other defined or ill-defined disease	4	6	10
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	—	1
All other accidents ...	7	2	9
Suicide ...	2	1	3
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	1	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	1
<hr/>			
Total	98	79	177
<hr/>			

Death Rate per 1,000 Population is 10.02

The outstanding facts emerging from these figures are:—

The steadily rising number of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis, Angina Pectoris and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, i.e. Strokes, Seizures and Apoplexy, etc., a total of 61 out of 177, and if we add to these the figures of other Heart and Circulatory conditions we get a total of 95 out of 177!!! Is this a sign of the hurry and worry of our present system or mode of life?

In spite of all the gloomy foreboding I cannot detect any significant rise in the number of Deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus said to be due to smoking.

Deaths from Infectious and Contagious disease are few and well distributed. No one cause is prominent.

Before closing this Report I must record that during the year under review we lost the services of Mr. Drakes. He had been in your service for five years during which time he did a vast amount of invaluable work. His great and comprehensive knowledge of his job plus his untiring energy and hard work brought your Health Inspection work to a very high level of efficiency backed up by a really sound and up to date office system. I hope in the near future the present staff will be given more modern and more comodious premises backed by modern office machines—a dictaphone would be a godsend in this type of work.

Mr. Powell has succeeded Mr. Drakes and right well has he stepped into his shoes. I wish him every success and will give him all the backing I can.

Finally at the end of the year my friend and Counsellor, Mr. J. Barwick, retired from his office of Clerk to the Rural District Council. No words of mine can convey what many of us, your servants, owe to that man. His great knowledge of all things pertaining to Local Government coupled with his carefully considered advice were always freely available to any of us just for the asking, and he was loyal to his fellow servants above all. I am sure we all wish him luck and good health to enjoy his leisure which he has richly earned.

We welcome Mr. Burdge, his successor, and will endeavour to assist him in any way he requires.

I have been your Medical Officer of Health now for over 40 years and have reached the age officially known as "Retirable". In Civil Service jargon I am now "Deemed to have Retired". On the contrary you have been kind enough to appoint me for a further year, and I hope that you will continue to do so from year to year as long as I carry out my duties to your satisfaction.

I have the honour to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD V. BREW, M.B., B.S.
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report and Summary of the Sanitary Conditions of the area.

The work carried out in the Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1957, is detailed under the various subject Headings which follow:—

WATER SUPPLY

(1) Distribution and Maintenance

During the year under review the number of domestic consumers increased by 77 and metered supplies by 27. Three wells were closed and two other unsatisfactory private supplies abandoned in favour of mains water.

Mains extensions completed during the year were:—

4" diameter 258 yds. Stanton Drew Housing Site.

3" diameter 112 yds. Stanton Drew Housing Site.

Total 370 yds.

The work of maintenance and waste detection kept your direct labour staff of three fully occupied, and during the year 9 burst mains were repaired, 90 services renewed, and 136 meters changed. 639 leaks located in the course of night and other tests were either repaired by your staff, or reported to and repaired by the owners concerned as follows:—

Underground wastes	265
Ball Valves leaking	228
Taps leaking	136
Burst pipes	10

(2) Sources, plant and consumption

Consumption showed a steady increase and as Rainfall was again below average during some early months of the year it again became necessary to augment the existing Downside and Harptree supplies from other sources.

The overland emergency main by which water from the B.W.W. Company's sources augments the supply to East Harptree reservoir was in use from 6th June to 15th August.

The bulk supply from Downside Abbey Water Company was cut from 17th June to 18th July for periods ranging from 8 to 10 hours which again resulted in hardship in High Littleton, Tinsbury and Paulton areas. Farmborough was supplied entirely from the emergency connection to the Bath main at Marksbury, which connection was used to the limit of its effectiveness.

The inability to maintain the supply to the eastern parishes during drought conditions emphasises the urgency of the proposed Bath mains augmentation scheme.

Your pumping stations and equipment gave no serious trouble during the year and are all regularly examined and maintained.

(3) Rainfall and Quality.

The rainfall for the year, as recorded at Townsend Pumping Station, East Harptree, was 40.64 inches as compared with 30.79 ins. for 1956.

All water is chlorinated before distribution and is regularly bacteriologically sampled. All such samples were satisfactory. Some raw water samples from Pitts Farm springs were unsatisfactory and although this source is of considerable value, it is not reliable either in quality or quantity.

Sampling details:—

SOURCE	Raw Water				Treated after going into supply			
	Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Mains Supplies	5	10	—	—	31	—	4	—
Well Supplies	5	10	—	—	—	—	—	—

Water supplied by the Council is hard, i.e.

East Harptree Scheme 290 parts per million.

Downside Scheme 230 parts per million.

The statistical information regarding the Council's Water Undertaking is as follows:—

Population of Statutory Area	17,354
Population supplied into houses	15,330
Population supplied by stand-pipes	708
Total population directly supplied	16,038
Population without piped supplies	1,316

Parish	Pop. 1957	Population supplied		
		into houses	by standpipes	Total
Cameley	627	616	11	627
Chelwood	135	131	—	131
Chew Magna	1,013	890	—	890
Chew Stoke	735	688	—	688
Chilcompton	738	635	58	693
Clutton	1,086	1,062	50	1,112
Compton Martin	484	360	6	366
East Harptree	581	495	—	495
Farnborough	790	664	100	764
Farrington Gurney	698	678	20	698
High Littleton	1,310	1,238	46	1,284
Hinton Blewett	173	146	—	146
Litton	207	138	—	138
Nempnett	196	146	—	146
Norton Malreward	228	218	—	218
Paulton	3,149	2,871	176	3,047
Publow	866	798	—	798
Stanton Drew	554	464	21	485
Ston Easton	509	445	12	457
Stowey-Sutton	735	721	14	735
Timsbury	1,684	1,450	194	1,644
Ubley	314	219	—	219
West Harptree	442	257	—	257
Totals	17,354	15,330	708	16,038

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION 1957

Water purchased from Downside Abbey	...	331,000 g.p.d.
Water purchased from Norton Radstock U.D.C.		29,700 g.p.d.
Water purchased from Bristol Waterworks Co.		140,000 g.p.d.
Water obtained from Pitt Farm & Townsend Spring		169,500 g.p.d.
Total		670,200 g.p.d.

WATER SUPPLIED

In statutory area—All purposes 663,950 g.p.d.

Outside statutory area—

Bulk supply to Bathavon R.D.C. 6,160 g.p.d.

Bulk supply to Waldegrave Estates 90 g.p.d.

Total ... 670,200 g.p.d.

SEWERAGE & SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

The new sewers and disposal works at Farmborough were completed during the year, and by December connections were being made steadily, and the decision to pay for the cost of laterals to dwelling-houses will ensure that the sewers do not remain idle.

Generally speaking the larger works have produced satisfactory effluents, but many of the smaller obsolete works cannot be relied on to do so. The maintenance of about forty plants keeps three men with a van fully occupied, but every effort is made to ensure that each is regularly visited. The small works serving the Parsonage Lane Housing site, Chilcompton, which had given considerable trouble was enlarged during the year to good effect.

The emptying of septic tanks on Council owned plants was again carried out by contract. The contractors found difficulty in disposing of contents on occasions, and increased use had to be made of sludge beds on the larger works for this purpose.

Your officers made 169 drainage inspections during the year resulting from complaints of nuisances, etc., and tested 117 lengths of new drains.

47 conversions to water closets and 59 bathrooms and improvements to drainage systems were carried out by private owners and inspected.

Unfortunately many nuisances remain and will continue to cause complaints in the absence of satisfactory sewerage systems in some villages.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

During the year 21 new council houses were completed and 26 were in course of erection, whilst 25 private enterprise houses were completed and 13 in the course of erection. These figures show a falling off from 1956.

Considerable repair and private improvement works controlled by building byelaws were nevertheless carried out and all such works were regularly inspected, a total of 356 inspections and visits being necessary.

Details of plans dealt with during the year together with comparative figures for 1956 are as follows:—

**TABLE OF PLANS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH
UNDER THE BYLAWS AND TOWN AND COUNTRY
PLANNING ACTS AND ORDERS**

	1956		1957	
	Plans	Buildings	Plans	Buildings
1. Council Houses (including outline)	2	24	4	71
2. Private Houses applications	76	83	115	47
3. Additions and alterations to houses	91	92	87	87
4. Conversions to houses	—	—	6	5
5. Farm Buildings	10	10	9	5
6. Factories, including alterations and additions.	8	8	7	5
7. Temporary Buildings and Moveable Dwellings	11	—	7	3
8. Licensed Premises, including alterations & additions	6	6	3	3
9. Shops, including additions and alterations	2	2	6	5
10. Petrol Stations and Garages	7	7	3	3
11. Local Authority (Bus' shelters, Sewers, Water Schemes, Schools, etc.)	9	9	4	4
12. Statutory Undertakers (Electricity Boards, etc.)	5	5	38	6
13. Private Garages	18	18	21	23
14. Advertisements	9	—	3	—
15. Public Halls & Buildings alterations and additions.	1	1	4	3
Total	255	265	317	270

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS

1899 — 1949

The Council administer the provisions of the above Acts in their District. During the year 13 cases were dealt with, surveys and valuations carried out, and in 11 cases advances were made, 1 application was refused and 1 was withdrawn. The total sum advanced was £6,200.

H O U S I N G

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—HOUSING ACTS 1949/1952

Steady progress in the improvement of properties under this scheme can be reported, even though costs tended to increase. Properties which would have been written off prior to 1939 have in many cases, where structurally sound, been modernized with considerable success.

48 applications for improvement grant for 50 dwellings were received and dealt with during the year. 1 application was refused and 47 approved in the following parishes:—

Cameley	...	...	...	1
Chelwood	...	...	...	2
Chew Magna		...	...	2
Chew Stoke	...	...	...	1
Chilcompton		...	...	2
Clutton	...	...	...	5
Compton Martin		...	...	2
East Harptree		...	...	2
Farnborough	...	...	...	5
High Littleton		...	...	2
Hinton Blewett		...	...	1
Litton	...	...	...	1
Norton Malreward		...	...	1
Paulton	...	...	...	3
Publow	...	...	...	4
Stanton Drew	...	...	...	1
Ston Easton	...	...	...	5
Stowey Sutton		...	...	3
Timsbury	...	...	...	4
Ubley	...	...	...	2

The financial details of these are as follows:—

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which Improvement Grants have been approved	... ..	49
2. Number of such dwellings owner/occupied	... ..	38
3. Number of such dwellings occupied by tenants	... ..	11
4. Total of "approved expenditure"		
	(average per dwelling of £808)	£39,592
5. Total of approved Grants	... ..	£12,816
6. Average Grant per dwelling	... ..	£262
7. Total expenditure to be incurred by owners in respect of repairs, improvements and professional fees	... ..	£26,776
8. Average expenditure to be incurred by owners (as compared with average grant of £262 per dwelling)		£546

UNFIT HOUSES

Progress towards clearing the back-log of condemned properties still occupied proceeded slowly and much remains to be done. At the end of the year out of 374 houses included in Clearance Orders prior to 1940, some 262 remained occupied. The policy of not allowing houses in Clearance Orders to be re-occupied even when vacated by other than rehousing measures has and will if continued, help to speed up the solution of this problem.

A total of 239 inspections were made in connection with housing matters.

HOUSING

Statistical information on the present situation in the district is as follows:—

1. Total number of permanent dwellings in the district	5,597
2. Total number of permanent dwellings owned by the Council (excluding 40 prefabs.)	... .. 1,184
3. Estimated number of houses as at August 1955	
unfit for human habitation	... .. 583

4.	Approximate number of (3) above still occupied and awaiting rehousing	...	...	...	...	420
5.	Approximate number of (4) above in confirmed clearance orders and still occupied	...	...	...	...	262
6.	Number demolished to date	...	...	...	...	35
7.	Number of houses made fit during the year				...	38
8.	Number of applications for Council Houses at 31.12.57 (subject to revision)		...	...	...	702

RODENT CONTROL AND VERMIN INFESTATION

Rodent Control methods remained unaltered during the year and the parish by parish survey and treatment was continued. This system, while being flexible enough to allow individual infestations to be dealt with wherever they occur, gives good results in that no serious infestations were met with. Some premises had to be visited several times and it is important to stress that disinfestation should be followed by ratproofing wherever possible.

The various sewage works, sewers and refuse tips were regularly surveyed and treated.

Very few cases of vermin other than rats and mice were reported, but advice and practical help is given wherever necessary.

	(1) L.A.	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) Business Premises	Total of (1), (2) (3) & (4)	(4) Farms
Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notifications	15	166	31	231	19
(b) Survey	21	784	14	879	60
No. of inspections	106	1227	116	1646	197
No. of properties found to be infested:—					
Rats					
Major	4	5	6	25	10
Minor	25	211	20	293	37
Mice					
Major	—	7	2	9	—
Minor	—	23	5	30	2
			Total	357	
No. of infested properties treated	26	157	26	237	28
No. of treatments	26	157	26	237	28
No. of Block Controls	23 (68)				

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

Total number of nuisances, other than drainage, investigated during the year	...	...	...	...	91
Total number abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	...	91

Details of nuisances as follows:—

Verminous and/or filthy premises	...	...	...	1
Animals or fowls kept in such a state as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	15
Accumulation of filth or refuse	...	...	...	8
Ponds, ditches or watercourses	...	...	...	50
Defective dustbins or closet pans	...	...	...	17

INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES AND DISINFECTIONS

20 investigations were made after cases of infectious diseases and disinfections were carried out where necessary.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of caravan sites remained at 1 for seasonal occupation only and 9 licenses were in force for single moveable dwellings. 9 inspections of sites were made but no nuisances were reported.

Several cases of unauthorised camping, usually by travelling dealer fraternity, were dealt with informally and removal secured.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

As previously reported the whole of the district has a weekly kerbside collection carried out by contract with the British Transport Commission. During the year the obsolete side loaders were replaced by two S & D, 18 cub. yd. fore and aft tippers which are giving good service.

Complaints are few in number and the co-operation received from the Road Services manager is extremely good.

Litter scattered indiscriminately throughout the countryside has been a problem in this district, as in others. To help combat this, some 42 litter baskets were erected in various villages and well used lay-bys, etc., with others to follow.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

The following food premises were inspected whenever opportunity allowed, but it was not possible to institute a systematic and regular inspection, largely owing to other demands. Improvements to facilities at various premises including two dairies were obtained. Visits to these premises were made on 64 occasions.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Fish & Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk—No. of registered Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of registered Dairy Premises other than Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of licensed dairies Designated milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of premises Licensed Sec. 16 F & D Act 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Shops selling food	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Cafes and Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Shops selling Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	72

Again I have to report that no ice-cream is being manufactured in the district, all registered premises selling pre-packed ices.

17 samples of milk were taken during the year of which 11 were for biological examination, as a result of which the milk supplied to a retailer was found to be infected with undulant fever organisms. Immediate action was taken to eliminate the source of infection.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES & MEAT INSPECTION

The number of licensed slaughterhouses is:—

- Bishop Sutton—One (wholesale)
- Chew Magna—Two (for own use only)
- High Littleton—One (for own use only)
- Norton Malreward—One (wholesale)
- Temple Cloud—One (for own use only)
- West Harptree—One (for own use only)

One application for a new licence was refused during the year on the grounds that the siting and facilities available were not satisfactory.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year fell by over 3,000 to 24,577, mainly due to a reduction in the number of sheep and lambs killed. It became necessary during the year, owing to the continued lack of control over slaughtering hours, to fix the hours within which a meat inspector would be available. This system has worked well and has ensured co-operation from the wholesalers in their own interests, with a result that very few animals are uninspected. Complete inspection will remain extremely difficult to attain in a rural area until slaughtering hours are controlled. Some 1,668 visits were made to slaughter-houses for meat inspection duties.

With some exceptions the percentages of diseased animals dropped slightly again, and it would seem that with the rapid increase in attested herds an overall improvement in animal health is resulting.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:—

	Cattle				Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
	Beasts	Heifers	Cows				
Number killed	505	2385	4697		2100	8762	6128
Number inspected	505	2385	4689		1995	8503	6044
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—							
Whole carcases condemned	4	6	69		12	18	32
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	81	488	2031		4	143	86
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.8%	20.7%	44%		0.8%	1.9%	1.95%
Tuberculosis only:—							
Whole carcases condemned	—	6	53		—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	149	828		—	—	99
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.2%	6.5%	18.7%		—	—	1.68%
Cysticercosis							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	5	2		—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	5	2		—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—		—	—	—
Weight of meat condemned	30 tons	2 cwts.	102 lbs.		4 cwts. 79 lbs.	9 cwts. 92 lbs.	1 ton 15 cwts. 89 lbs.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

Number of factories in the District 69

The number of inspections carried out under the provisions of the above Act during the year was 15.

Two Contraventions of the Act were found.
The statistical information is as follows:—

	No. on Register	Inspections
1. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	3	2
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	13

Defects found—

	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Insp.
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	Nil
Sanitary conveniences			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil

Outworkers

Numbers of outworkers in August List—Section 110 (1) (c)

Wearing apparel (Making) 9

PETROL AND CARBIDE

On 31st December, 1957, the amount of petrol stored under licence had increased to 112,500 gallons in 83 installations.

36 Retail Filling Stations

47 Private installations.

The amount of carbide stored under licence was 20,000 lbs.

In concluding I offer my thanks to all members of the staff for their loyalty and hard work in a difficult year during which several staff changes occurred.

Mr. Drakes resigned in October to take up a similar appointment, and Mr. Crowle was appointed as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods to commence his duties on 1.1.58. Mr. Hickson joined the Department as Clerk in February but left in October, and Mrs. Hobbs joined the Department as Clerk/Typist in June.

My thanks are also due to the Members of the Council for their support and to Dr. Brew and Mr. Barwick for their confidence and able advice whenever sought.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. POWELL.

